

**MARTINSVILLE COMMON COUNCIL
MARTINSVILLE INDIANA
MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016**

Prior to the start of the Common Council meeting, Mayor Kohl spoke of the loss of Howard County Deputy Sheriff Carl Koontz. Officer Koontz was killed in the line of duty while serving a warrant on Saturday. Mayor Kohl offers condolence and support on behalf of the City of Martinsville. Mayor Kohl stated that Indiana Governor Mike Pence ordered the flags be flown at half-staff until sunset on the day of Officer Koontz's funeral.

Mayor Shannon Kohl called the Martinsville Common Council to order on Monday, March 21, 2016. Citizen Grady Howard then led those in attendance in opening prayer followed by the Mayor's leading attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

THOSE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Shannon Kohl, Mayor
Terry Buster, District 1
Ben Merida, District 2
Mike Lanam, District 3
Chip Keller, District 4
Phil Deckard II, District 5
Eric Bowlen, Councilman-at-Large
David Trout, Councilman-at-Large
Dale Coffey, City Attorney
Rick Lange, Chief of Police
Valerie Hugart, Clerk-Treasurer
Becky Tumey, 1stDeputy Clerk

A quorum was declared present.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman David Trout to waive the reading of the minutes of March 7, 2016 and to accept the minutes as written. Councilman Ben Merida seconded the motion. Councilman Terry Buster abstained due to absence. The Motion passes 5-0.

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MAYORS REPORT

Update on trash – DPW Frank Lane discussed that residents are calling in complaining about trash in their neighborhoods. Frank explained that he visits the owners and requests their property be cleaned up. If no one is home he leaves a door knocker. To date, owners have been receptive to cleaning up their property. A list has been compiled in the Mayor's office. The list includes alleys.

Poston Road Stormwater Project – This project could be finished in late May. In the meantime, Mayor Kohl reminded everyone the street is open to residential and school traffic only.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks Department – Del Chafey discussed vandalism at the area parks. He reported the night-time Easter Egg Hunt was a success. There will be garden plots available at Victory Park. Park Boardmember Mike Pratt explained there will be about 40, 4x4 plots available. This prompted a discussion by the Council, neighbors and residents. The following neighbors presented a petition to the Council against allowing this project to happen. Patty Manley, Shelly Plummer, and Rick Frye voiced their concerns regarding additional traffic to the area, lack of parking, no water, no electricity and loss of a neighborhood playground. Del Chafey replied that this is not a Council matter, but a Park Board matter. Opponents need to attend Park Board meeting to voice their concerns. The next Park Board meeting will be April 11, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

Utility Vehicle Ordinance - Police Chief Rick Lang appeared to discuss State Code Title 14-9. Currently the City is charging a fee to use these types of vehicles within the City. We may be in violation. Further, IC 9-24-11 states a valid driver's license is required. It was suggested City Attorney Dale Coffey create a revised draft for the Council to consider. A motion was made by Councilman David Trout to table action on this issue. Councilman Ben Merida seconded the motion. The Motion passes 6-0.

Trash – DPW Frank Lane appeared to report a committee has been formed to make recommendations concerning trash collection. There is confusion among landlords as to if they can or cannot have their rentals trash collected by City trucks. Frank has been in contact with Waste Management and has successfully negotiated the collection rate of the City down to \$44.00 per ton. He reported the Transfer Station needs work and equipment needs replaced. The Transfer Station has been in decline financially since the 2008 flood. At that time the previous administration suspended heavy trash pick-up and allowed trash, bulk items and debris to be placed at the curb with their normal waste. 1st Deputy Clerk Becky Tumey discussed a trash study from 2015 that shows the financial decline. Prior to the flood, the Transfer Station sustained itself, had at least one full time employee (actually there was two) and repairs were up to date.

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Frank went onto explain “heavy trash” was done the first week every quarter. The City never returned to that practice. The Council suggested that no action against landlords and their tenants be taken until at least June 1st. It is hoped by then the Committee will have suggestions that are fair to all and a new ordinance will be presented. A motion was made by Councilman David Trout to table this issue. Councilman Chip Keller seconded the motion. The Motion passes 6-0.

Further, when a decision is made, residents will be notified by mail.

CLAIMS

A motion to accept the claims as reported was made by Ben Merida. Councilman Terry Buster seconded the motion. The Motion passes 6-0. Councilman Chip Keller abstained on claims from Keller Office Supply.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Terry Buster made the motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Councilman Chip Keller. The Motion passes 6-0.

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David Trout, Councilman-at-
Large

ATTEST:

Valerie Hugart, Clerk-Treasurer